

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact:

Robin Henson, (501) 683-2078, robinh@adhe.arknet.edu

ARKANSAS INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION OFFER ASSISTANCE TO NEARLY 100,000 DISPLACED STUDENTS

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (Sept. 2, 2005) —The Arkansas Department of Higher Education is supporting Operation KARE (Katrina Assistance and Relief Effort), a coordinated effort involving all state agencies in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, to offer assistance to nearly 100,000 displaced college students.

As a part of the effort, all public universities, most public two-year colleges and some independent or private colleges are offering tuition waivers for students from affected areas for the fall 2005 semester under certain conditions. “Any Arkansas resident currently enrolled in any New Orleans public or private institution of higher education who has returned home may enroll at participating Arkansas institutions without tuition or mandatory fee charges,” according to Dr. Linda Beene, director of the state Department of Higher Education.

Students may be attending schools including: Dillard University, Loyola University-New Orleans, Our Lady of Holy Cross College, Southern University-New Orleans, Tulane University, University of New Orleans and Xavier University of Louisiana. Out-of-state tuition and fees will be waived for any student from the impacted areas of Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi who wishes to enroll in an Arkansas college.

“We are talking with the presidents and chancellors of all Arkansas institutions about providing assistance to students in affected areas, which may include enrolling them, providing access to computer labs, libraries, advice on student services like financial aid or student loans, etc. This move by our Arkansas institutions may result in the need to extend the enrollment reporting deadline for our agency,” said Dr. Beene.

“The institutions are also providing additional services for refugees who are staying in their communities, as well as raising funds for the hurricane victims.” Enrollment needs, as well as community service and fundraisers coordinated by the colleges and universities to offer relief to the hurricane refugees reported to date include:

- **Arkansas State University-Beebe** - Students seeking fall enrollment who are coming from affected institutions in other areas, such as Mississippi, will be extended assistance on a case-by-case basis to be determined by the admissions office.

- **Arkansas State University-Jonesboro** is offering a special scholarship package to Arkansas students who were attending school in the hurricane area and would like to come to ASU-Jonesboro for a semester. Student Affairs and Academic Affairs officials are working out arrangements on the assumption that many of these students will not have transcripts and other key information immediately available. Student affairs and the advising center personnel will work out details and establish a "hurricane buddy" system to help Katrina-affected students get up to speed, both academically and personally.
- **Arkansas State University-Mountain Home** is setting up donation points at the three entrances to its campus on Wednesday and Thursday of next week. This is being organized by the Student Government Association and other student organizations.
- **Black River Technical College's** nursing department is accepting donations of non-perishable items through Friday, September 9. The items will be distributed to refugees who are seeking shelter in northeast Arkansas and nearby areas. The greatest need is for personal hygiene items such as soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, towels and washcloths. Monetary donations will also be accepted, and checks should be made payable to the "American Red Cross." For more information, contact Tara Miller or Dana Clay at (870) 248-4000.
- **East Arkansas Community College** (EACC) has offered the use of its Computer Education Center and Library Internet-access computers for evacuees on its campus and at the EACC site in Wynne. They are in the process of planning a large dinner for the more than 1,000 evacuees taking refuge in Forrest City. A date for the dinner has not been confirmed.
- **Henderson State University** is making special exceptions to accommodate students victimized by the hurricane. There is room for 75 students in campus residence halls without disrupting the living situations of current students. Henderson is allowing students who were attending colleges or universities in the gulf area affected by Katrina to register late. In other efforts, Henderson will make 40-45 mattresses available to hurricane refugees stranded locally. For a limited time, there will be eight bedrooms available for elderly or special needs refugees in the Whispering Oaks apartments that are part of university housing. Movies will be shown nightly to offer a source of escape for the victims stranded in Arkadelphia. The university's student hub, The Garrison Center, is open from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1 to 11 p.m. on Sundays. The facility features bathrooms, showers, a fitness room, basketball and racquetball courts and is available to any of the refugees. Henderson is also addressing the needs of commuters with the increasing cost of gasoline. The university's information desk is now offering carpool information. To learn more about the Reddie Rides carpool service, call 870-230-5228. For financial aid information, call 870-230-5148.
- **NorthWest Arkansas Community College** - Students can register in Late Start (12 week) and 2nd 8-week classes. If classes are closed, the student will need to visit with the academic dean for the division offering the class. To register, students need to come to Admissions Office in Burns Hall to complete an application for admission. The application fee will be waived. Admissions will keep a list of the instate students, so the waiver can be placed on the students account. Out of state students will be coded as out of district residency for the fall semester.
- **Ozarka College's** Student Council has made a \$200 donation to the Red Cross and its administration is looking at other possibilities.

- **Pulaski Technical College's** Student Government Association and Student Ambassadors are conducting a food, clothing and water drive as well as collecting monetary donations for the American Red Cross on the college's main campus in North Little Rock and at the Little Rock location at the corner of Kanis and John Barrow. Pulaski Tech faculty and staff are providing volunteer assistance at various shelters throughout the central Arkansas region. Students from affected areas seeking fall enrollment at Pulaski Tech can contact the admissions office at (501) 812-2231 and will be extended assistance on a case-by-case basis. Pulaski Tech also will be participating in a program to provide online instruction to students affected by the hurricane. The Pulaski Technical College Saline County Career Center at Bauxite will offer free cosmetology services to those affected by Hurricane Katrina.
- **South Arkansas Community College** is using its semi truck from its truck-driving program to deliver supplies the El Dorado community has gathered to donate to victims, and the East campus is opening its computer lab.
- **Southern Arkansas University Tech** is in the process of making space available in one of the dorms to house hurricane victims. SAU-Tech also has had some students deployed with the National Guard and is working with them so that they will be able to complete their coursework. This would apply to utility workers and anyone else deployed due to the hurricane.
- The **University of Arkansas**, Fayetteville, will team up with the Northwest Arkansas Chapter of the American Red Cross to raise funds. A series of collection stations will be posted at the Razorback's Sept. 3 game at 6 p.m. at Donald W. Reynolds Razorback Stadium. Beginning at noon Friday, Sept. 2, a collection station will be posted at the fan entrance of Barnhill Arena, site of the Arkansas Lady'Backs' 2005 C&C Services Invitational volleyball tournament. Donations will also be collected during the Razorback's Saturday, Sept. 10 game at 6 p.m. Patrons are asked to provide monetary donations.
- The **University of Arkansas at Little Rock** has streamlined the admissions process so affected students can quickly enrolled and registered. Admissions counselors are working with students on an individual basis to make sure their specific needs are met. UALR has 17 students enrolled who fit into this category to date. Also, the UALR Bowen School of Law has arranged for a waiver agreement for students from Tulane and Loyola Universities in New Orleans.
- The **University of Arkansas at Monticello's** Missionary Baptist Student Fellowship is serving as the campus donation center and collecting linen and bath materials, personal hygiene items, clothing and non-perishable foods, as well as personal amusement items for children.
- The **University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton** is planning a Red Cross cash donation drive. The planning meeting is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 2. The college wants to set up "stations" in each building on campus for students, faculty and staff, as well as the community, to be able to make donations.
- The **University of Central Arkansas** donated \$500 to the American Red Cross. The Staff Senate's theme is "Creating Community Together," and is involving staff and faculty in the local efforts to help families who have sought shelter in the Conway community. They teamed up with the Faulkner County United Way to aid in efforts to provide assistance to refugee families here in Conway.

The students of Sophomore Year Experience, in cooperation with the president's office, will be coordinating a campus-wide collection of items needed for the local relief efforts located at the Don Owens Center. Clearly marked Katrina Refugee Relief collection boxes will be placed in most campus buildings. UCA has been asked specifically to supply the following for 125-300 people who will be arriving over the next several days: towels and wash cloths; twin sheets for army cots; pillows and pillowcases; laundry detergent; and flip flops or house shoes in all sizes. The Don Owens Center expects to house dozens of families for at least four to six weeks. Those who wish to volunteer their time and money may contact Samantha at the United Way at (501) 327-5087. Call Jayme Stone at (501) 450-5148 with questions about this coordinated relief effort.

Contact the institutions for specific information about enrollment or community services available:

Arkansas State University–Beebe	501-882-4420
Arkansas State University-Mountain Home	870-508-6109
Arkansas State University-Newport	870-512-7800
Arkansas State University	870-972-3024
Arkansas Tech University	479-968-0272
Arkansas Northeastern College	870-762-1020
Black River Technical College	870-248-4000
Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas	870-584-4471
East Arkansas Community College	870-633-4480, x 214
Henderson State University	870-230-5028
Mid-South Community College	870-733-7622
National Park Community College	501-760-4222
North Arkansas College	870-743-3000
Northwest Arkansas Community College	479-636-9222
Ouachita Technical College	501-337-5000
Ozarka College	870-368-7371
Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas	870-338-1336
Pulaski Technical College	501-812-2231
Rich Mountain Community College	479-394-7622
South Arkansas Community College	870-862-8131
Southeast Arkansas College	870-543-5900
Southern Arkansas University	870-235-4031
Southern Arkansas University – Tech	870-574-4500
University of Arkansas	479-575-5346
University of Arkansas at Fort Smith	479-788-7405
University of Arkansas at Little Rock	501-683-7260
University of Arkansas at Monticello	870-460-1026
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff	870-575-8492
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences	501-686-5730
University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville	870-612-2010
University of Arkansas Community College at Hope	870-722-8267
University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton	800-264-1094
University of Central Arkansas	501-450-3128

For more information on the Arkansas Department of Higher Education or its involvement with KARE, visit www.arkansashighered.com or call (800) 54-STUDY.